

THE PERISCOPE

WHEN IS A BAN NOT A BAN?

Despite an explicit Congressional ban, U.S. ground troops are going into both Cambodia and Laos. The army is "injecting" helicopter-borne long-range reconnaissance patrols on secret intelligence-gathering missions, which the Pentagon does not consider a violation of the ban. Reports from Vietnam indicate that as many as a score or more of these small patrols are flown in and out of Laos or Cambodia in a single day.

THE WAR AT HARPER'S: PART II

The embattled editors who walked out of Harper's Magazine in March after a split with publisher John Cowles Jr. are talking seriously of a magazine of their own. The group, including ex-editor Willie Morris and Pulitzer Prize-winner David Halberstam, is hunting for backers (the search has reached as far as Texas). A non-Harper's big name who may also lend a hand if the venture finds an angel is Tom Wicker, an associate editor of The New York Times.

CASTRO CRACKS DOWN

Like his big brothers in Moscow, Cuba's Fidel Castro is having his troubles with intellectual unrest and is cracking down. A French journalist was arrested trying to leave the island with manuscripts from anti-Castro dissenters. The police have also locked up Heberto Padilla, winner of Cuba's top poetry prize. Both are still in jail.

THE RESTLESS TURKS

Turkey's military men are talking about dismissing the Ankara Parliament if it doesn't produce the reforms they want. According to Western intelligence, the generals and admirals would prefer a Greek-style junta to crack down on what they consider left-wingers and radicals.